July 1, 2003

Public Notice for 401 Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)

Vintage Greens Project Phase II – Windsor Creek Bypass and East Windsor Creek Floodplain Project, WDID No. 1B02142WNSO
Sonoma County

On March 5, 2003, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Ms. Sue Nelson of Brelje and Race Civil Engineers, on behalf of Demada, LLC requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Vintage Greens Phase II Project in Sonoma County. The application was deemed complete on April 5, 2003. The proposed project causes disturbances to waters of the state associated with Windsor Creek in the Mark West Hydrologic Unit No.114.23.

The proposed project is located on the northwest bank of Windsor Creek, approximately 930 feet east and upstream of the bridge on Windsor Road, Windsor, Sonoma County, California. The purpose of the project is to reduce the likelihood of flooding associated with new residential development within the town of Windsor.

The proposed project consists of the construction of a bypass channel on Windsor Creek and widening of the floodplain of East Windsor Creek to accommodate increased storm flows generated by upstream residential development within the Town of Windsor. The Windsor Creek bypass channel will be constructed parallel to and on the northeast side of Windsor Creek, on the east side of the Windsor Road Bridge. The proposed total length of the bypass channel is approximately 930 feet. A weir will be constructed at the inlet to the bypass, which is proposed to be stabilized by the placement of riprap along the affected streambank, and sloped 2.5: 1 over a reach of approximately 110 feet. According to the application, the weir will prevent low flows in the creek from diverting out of the natural channel, while accepting flows through the bypass channel during 10-year events or greater.

Upstream of the bypass structure, the natural channel of Windsor Creek will remain unaltered for approximately 400 feet until its confluence with East Windsor Creek. Then for approximately 750 feet upstream of the confluence the south bank of East Windsor Creek will be excavated down to a 2 percent cross-sloped bench that generally follows the flow line slope of the creek, but lies at elevations no less than two feet above the creek flow line elevation. The proposed bench will extend from the creek bank out to approximately 90 feet, where a 2.5:1 cut slope resolves the bench excavation back up to the existing grade. The bench is currently configured to provide additional capacity for East Windsor Creek from the confluence up to the Windsor Water Reclamation Plant for higher flows, but will leave the perennial low-flow creek channel and the north bank of East Windsor Creek unaltered.

Construction of the bypass and floodplain enhancement project is not anticipated to require draining the project area. If draining of the project area is required, a temporary diversion dam and a temporary diversion pipe will be installed that will be sized to convey normal summer flows around the construction site. Instream work will take place between June 15 and October 15. Adhering to this schedule should minimize impacts to water quality in Windsor and East Windsor Creeks and rearing and migrating salmonids.

The total of approximately 110 lineal feet will be impacted along Windsor Creek, and approximately 0.8 acres of waters of the state will be impacted along East Windsor Creek. A Mitigation and Monitoring Proposal was developed by Mr. Rocky Thompson, Restoration Planner, of Circuit Riders Productions, to offset the impacts to riparian vegetation.

Compensatory mitigation for this project will be attained through the replanting of 1.3 acres with native riparian vegetation along Windsor and East Windsor Creeks. The planting shall have a complete survival count once each year during the three-year maintenance and monitoring period. A 75 percent survival rate shall be obtained upon the completion of the three-year monitoring period. Non-compensatory mitigation measures include the use of erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs).

The applicant has applied for and received a Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game (Notification Number: 1600-2003-0133-3). In addition, the applicant applied with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a Clean Water Act Section 404 Nationwide Permit No. 13 (File No. 1585.25).

The Town of Windsor, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, had an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared by Wagstaff and Associates pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed project.

The nearest receiving water is Windsor Creek located in Mark West Hydrologic Unit No. 114.23.

The project is scheduled to begin upon receipt of the Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) and end by October 15, 2003. Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act Authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Andrew Jensen at (707) 576-2683, or at jensa@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

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